COMMITTEE
ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2007-2008)

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

NINETEENTH REPORT

REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF ASSURANCES

Presented to Lok Sabha on 30.08.2007

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
August 2007/Bhadrapada, 1929 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2007-2008)

Shri Harin Pathak - CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rashid J.M.Aaron
3. Shri Yogi Aditya Nath
4. Km. Mamata Banerjee
5. Shri Jigajinagi Ramesh Chandappa
6. Dr. K. Dhanaraju
7. Shri Biren Singh Engti
8. Shri Sunil Khan
9. Shri Vijoy Krishna
10. Shri Rasheed Masood
11. Shri A. Venkatesh Naik
12. Shri Nihal Chand
13. Smt. M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran
14. Shri Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh
15. Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri S. Bal Shekar	-	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Hardev Singh	-	Director
3.	Shri B.S. Dahiya	-	Deputy Secretary
4.	Shri V.P. Goel	-	Deputy Secretary-II

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* **The Committee was constituted on 07 August 2007 vide Para No.3783 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 06 August 2007.**

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Nineteenth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2006-2007) was constituted on 7 August 2006.

3. The Committee (2006-2007) at their sitting held on 16 May 2007 considered Memorandum Nos. 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60 and 61 containing requests received from the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India for dropping of pending assurances.

4. At their sitting held on 25 July 2007, the Committee (2006-2007) considered and adopted their Nineteenth Report which has been drafted on the basis of the decisions taken by the Committee on the Memoranda cited in the previous para.

5. The Minutes of the aforesaid sittings of the Committee form part of this report. (Appendix)

6. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

NEW DELHI;

HARIN PATHAK
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

25 July 2007
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03 Sravana 1929 (Saka)

REPORT

CHAPTER – I

REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF ASSURANCES (NOT ACCEPTED)

(i) CENTRAL LEGISLATION FOR UNORGANISED SECTOR WORKERS

1.1 The following thirteen assurances (Annexure) were given in reply to various SQs/USQs and Calling Attention during the period from 25 November 2002 to 20 February 2006 regarding 'Unorganised Sector Workers':-

1. Unstarred Question No.1090 dated 25 November 2002 regarding Pension Scheme for Workers of Unorganised Sector.

2. Unstarred Question No.1113 dated 28 July 2003 regarding Welfare of Workers in Unorganised Sector.

3. Unstarred Question No.2000 dated 04 August 2003 regarding Labourers in Unorganised Sector.

4. Unstarred Question No.1031 dated 08 December 2003 regarding Unorganised Labourers under Pension Scheme.

5. Starred Question No.181 dated 15 December 2003 regarding Social Security Scheme For Unorganised Sector.

6. Starred Question No.181 dated 15 December 2003 regarding Social Security Scheme For Unorganised Sector (Supplementary by Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi, M.P.).

7. Starred Question No.241 dated 21 March 2005 regarding Social Security Scheme for Contract and Industrial Labourers.

8. Starred Question No.241 dated 21 March 2005 regarding Social Security Scheme for Contract and Industrial Labourers (Supplementary by Smt. Anuradha Choudhary, M.P.).

9. Unstarred Question No.4507 dated 25 April 2005 regarding Amendment in Maternity Act, 1961.

10. Calling Attention dated 13 May 2005 regarding Alleged Violation of Payment of Wages Act, Payment of Minimum Wages Act and Need to Enact a Comprehensive Legislation for Unorganised Labour.

11. Unstarred Question No.49 dated 25 July 2005 regarding Comprehensive Social Security Legislation.

12. Starred Question No.269 dated 12 December 2005 regarding Pension and Insurance for Unorganised Sector.

13. Unstarred Question No.222 dated 20 February 2006 regarding Contract Labourers under Medical Insurance Scheme.

1.2 The above questions mainly pertained to welfare schemes like pension scheme, constitution of Central Unorganised Sector Workers Welfare Board, Social Security Scheme, extension of maternity benefits to women workers of unorganized sector etc.

1.3 The Ministers concerned *inter-alia* replied that the matter was under active consideration of the Government.

1.4 The replies given to the above SQs/USQs were treated as assurances and were to be implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment within three months of their replies but the assurances are yet to be implemented. The Ministry sought extension of time upto 31 December 2006 to fulfill all the above mentioned assurances.

1.5 The Ministry of Labour and Employment *vide* their O.M. No. H.11016/23/2002-RW dated 06 October 2006, with the approval of Minister of Labour and Employment, requested the Committee to drop the above assurances on the ground that no time frame to introduce the Bill in the House can be given.

1.6 The Committee note that as many as twelve questions and a Calling Attention were asked from 25 November 2002 to 20 February 2006 regarding 'Central Legislation for Unorganised Sector Workers'. These questions/Calling Attention mainly pertained to welfare schemes like pension scheme, constitution of Central Unorganised Sector Workers Welfare Board, Social Security Scheme, Extension of maternity benefits to women workers of Unorganized Sector etc. In reply to these questions it was *inter-alia* stated that proposal to enact a legislation for Unorganised Sector Workers was under consideration of the Government. All these replies were treated as assurances and were required to be implemented by the Government within three months of their reply. But the assurances remained unimplemented. The Ministry subsequently requested for deletion of all the 13 assurances on the ground that no time frame to introduce the Bill in the House could be given. This request of the Ministry was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 16 May 2007 and the Committee decided not to drop any of the assurances.

1.7 The Committee note with serious concern that the Minister of Labour and Employment assured the House as many as thirteen times 'that a proposal to enact a legislation for Unorganised Sector Workers was under consideration of the Government. For dropping these assurances the Government has now taken the plea that no time frame to introduce the Bill in the House can be given. This clearly shows how

casually the assurance was given by the Government. The Committee take a serious note of the fact that the Ministry of Labour and Employment has not even bothered to apprise this august Committee about the progress so far made in the direction to bring forward the said Bill. The Committee express its serious concern over this sorry state of affairs and urge the Ministry to desist from citing unconvincing reasons to drop the assurances. The Committee are of the view that a solemn promise was made to the House and the matter relates to millions of poor people of the country. The Committee, therefore desire the Government to come forward with the Bill on the subject without any further loss of time. In the meantime the Committee desire to be apprised of the difficulties being faced by the Ministry in the introduction of the Bill in the House and a chronological detail of steps taken so far to implement these 13 assurances may also be submitted to the Committee for their consideration.

[ii] DEVELOPMENT OF AGRO PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND FOOD PARKS AND MODERNISATION OF ABATTOIR SCHEMES

1.8 On 13 March 2006, Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao, MP addressed the following SQ No. 306 to the Minister of Food Processing Industries:-

> **"(a) whether the Government has reviewed the ongoing schemes formulated for the development of agro-processing industries;**
>
> **(b) if so, the details thereof;**
>
> **(c) whether the Government is considering to formulate any new scheme for the above industries; and;**
>
> **(d) if so, the details thereof?"**

1.9 In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (Shri Subodh Kant Sahai) stated as follows:-

> **"(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.**
>
> **STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) FOR LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *306 FOR 13TH MARCH 2006 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF AGRO PROCESSING INDUSTRIES.**
>
> "For promotion of food processing industries, Government has implemented several Plan Schemes. Under these schemes financial assistance is provided for technology upgradation / modernization / establishment of the food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of the food processing industries. Review of the existing schemes and formulation of a new scheme for promotion of agro processing industries is an ongoing process. A proposal to introduce a new plan scheme for mega food park (Integrated Food Zone) was submitted to the Planning Commission and the same is under examination in the light of the advice given by the Planning

Commission."

1.10 On 03 August 2006, Shri Kishanbhai V. Patel, MP addressed the following USQ No. 1316 to the Minister of Food Processing Industries:-

"(a) whether Food Parks and Modernisation of Abattoir schemes are facing financial constraints;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the bottleneck in this regard?"

1.11 In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (Shri Subodh Kant Sahai) stated as follows:-

"(a) to (c): The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, with a view to make available infrastructure facilities to processing units, under its plan schemes, provides assistance to Food Parks and for modernization of abattoirs. Financial assistance is available @ 25% of project cost in general areas and @ 33.33% of project cost in difficult areas, subject to maximum of Rs. 4.00 crores, for provision of common facilities in Food Parks such as power supply, water supply, cold storage, warehousing facilities, effluent treatment plant, food testing analytical laboratories, common processing facilities etc. For modernization of abattoirs, the Ministry provides financial assistance to Local Bodies @ 25% / 33.33% of the cost of Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil Works in general / difficult areas up to a maximum of Rs. 4.00 Crores. No financial constraints are being faced so far as funds under the plan schemes are concerned. However, an exercise to restructure the schemes to make them more effective is under discussion with Planning Commission."

1.12 The above replies to the questions were treated as assurances and were required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries within three months of the date of replies but the assurances are yet to be implemented.

1.13 The Ministry of Food Processing Industries *vide* their O.M. No. 4-94/2006-F&VP/NE dated 26 October 2006 requested for dropping both the assurances on the grounds that a proposal for Integrated Food Zones/Mega Food Park is under discussion with the Planning Commission. The Ministry further stated that based on the experience gained, studies conducted and feedback received, a proposal for restructuring of the existing Infrastructure Development Scheme is under discussion with the Planning Commission. According to them, the Ministry is not in a position to say with certainity whether or not/or in what form the proposal would be approved. Further, it may be pointed out that being the final year of the 10^{th} Plan, the proposal, if any, will be considered only as part of the 11^{th} Plan Schemes and same is likely to take more time.

1.14 The Committee note that a question was asked on 13 March 2006 regarding review of the ongoing schemes formulated for the development of agro processing industries, its details and proposal to formulate a new scheme for agro-processing industries alongwith its details. Another question was asked on 03 August 2006 regarding financial constraints being faced with regard to the schemes for modernization of Food Parks and Abattoir Schemes and its details etc. In reply it was *inter-alia* stated that a proposal to introduce a new Plan scheme for mega food park (Integrated Food Zone) was under examination in the light of the advice given by the Planning Commission. An exercise to restructure the schemes for modernization of Food Parks and Abattoirs to make them more effective, was also under discussion with the Planning Commission. Both the replies were treated as assurances which were required to be implemented within three months of the replies. However, the assurances remained un-implemented and the Ministry of Food Processing Industries requested for dropping both the assurances on the ground that 'the proposal for Integrated Food Zones/Mega Food Park is under discussion with Planning Commission and it is not known whether or not or in what form it would be approved'. The Committee considered this request of the Ministry at their sitting held on 16 May 2007 and decided not to drop the assurances.

1.15 The Committee note that a proposal to introduce a new plan scheme for mega food park (Integrated Food Zone) was being examined by the Ministry in the light of the advice given by the Planning Commission and also an exercise to restructure the schemes for modernization of Food Parks and Abattoirs, to make them more effective was under discussion with Planning Commission. The Committee also take notice of the fact that earlier while replying to the Starred Question No.306 on 13 March 2006 it was specifically stated that a proposal to introduce a new Plan scheme for mega food park was submitted to the Planning Commission and the same was under their examination in the light of the advice given by the Planning Commission. Now the Ministry has taken the plea that they were not in a position to say with certainty whether or not/or in what form the proposal would be approved. The Committee do not agree to the stand taken by the Ministry. They take a serious view on the slackness on the part of the Ministry and desire to be apprised of the status of the implementation of the assurances alongwith the steps taken thereon.

CHAPTER – II
REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF ASSURANCES (ACCEPTED)

[i] DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT BY MMTC

2.1 On 19 April 2002, Shri Basudeb Acharia, MP addressed the following USQ No. 4194 to the Minister of Commerce and Industry:-

> **"(a) whether the Government are aware of the discriminatory treatment being meted out by MMTC Limited to the employees of the Mica Division in pay scale and other related benefits;**
>
> **(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any remedial steps in this regard;**
>
> **(c) if so, the details thereof; and**
>
> **(d) if not, the reasons therefor?"**

2.2 In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy) stated as follows:-

> **"(a) to (d) : Sir, there is no discriminatory treatment being meted out by MMTC Ltd. to the employees of the Mica Division in the pay scale and other related benefits as the terms and conditions of service applicable to Mica Division are in line with the order of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), which envisaged that the terms and conditions of service applicable to erstwhile MITCO`s employees (presently Mica Division) on the effective date should not be less favourable to them than those applicable to them immediately before transfer date. However, Committee on Petition of the Lok Sabha, which looked into the employees grievances of the Mica Division of MMTC Ltd, made a recommendation that the pay scales of the employees of Mica Division should be revised to make them at par with the officers and staff of MMTC**

Ltd. and also pay scales of workers of Mica Division which were introduced as far back as in July 1984 also be suitably revised. This recommendation of the Committee on Petition of the Lok Sabha is presently under examination as it involves heavy financial implications."

2.3 The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfiled by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry within three months of the date of reply i.e. by 18 July 2002 but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

2.4 The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) had not requested for extension of time to fulfil the assurance beyond 30.09.2006.

2.5 The Ministry of Commerce and Industry *vide* their O.M. No. 20/7/2002-FT(M&O) dated 22 September 2006 requested for dropping the assurance on the ground that the core issue of the recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee on Petitions in their Report presented in Lok Sabha on 5.8.2003 related to revision of salary and allowances of the employees of Mica Division (erstwhile Mica Trading Corporation – MITCO) at par with the regular employees of MMTC. MMTC had not agreed to implement the specific recommendation and has been submitting that the package of merger of MITCO with MMTC approved by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) envisaged that the terms and conditions of service applicable to such employees on the effective date will in no way be less favourable to them than those applicable to them immediately in

MITCO before the transfer date. Therefore, the pay scales of the employees of Mica Division remains the same as they were getting in erstwhile MITCO.

2.6 According to them, the entire operations of Mica Division has come to a complete halt and the plant is not running since July, 2002. Despite best efforts of MMTC to revive the Mica Division by taking actions, such as: closure of uneconomic offices, disposal of inventory, assistance from National Renewal Fund, repayment of working capital and upgradation of technology etc., the Mica Division could not be revived. MMTC is currently bearing the burden of Rs. 4.5 crore annually towards idle salary and wages of the employees of Mica Division without generation of any revenue attributable to them.

2.7 The proposal of MMTC to close down Mica Division was submitted to the Ministry of Labour with the approval of the Ministry of Commerce. However, the Ministry of Labour has not agreed to the same. MMTC, with the approval of the Ministry, has filed a review application in the Ministry of Labour against the decision, which is pending their consideration. Besides, the employees of Mica Division have filed a number of writ petitions in the Kolkata High Court where the main relief sought is the wage parity of Mica Division's employees with the regular employees of the MMTC Limited. The matter was referred to the Ministry of law, Justice and Company Affairs, Department of Legal Affairs for their advice as to whether employees of Mica Division could seek pay parity with regular employees of MMTC Limited with reference to the package approved by BIFR and other related instructions issued by Department of Public Enterprises etc. As quite a few writ petitions filed by employees of Mica Division are pending decision in the

Kolkata High Court, the Department of Legal Affairs have declined to give their comments stating that the matter is sub-judice.

2.8 In view of above, the Department of Commerce has to wait for the outcome of the various writ petitions and the decision of the Ministry of Labour in the review application filed by the MMTC Limited and hence is unable to fulfill the assurance at the present juncture. It is also not certain when the writ petitions and/or the review application will be disposed of.

2.9 The Ministry with the approval of Minister of State (Commerce) therefore, requested the Committee to delete the assurance.

2.10 The Committee note that a question was asked on 19 April 2002 regarding discriminatory treatment of the employees of Mica Division by MMTC Limited and the remedial steps taken by the Government thereon. In reply it was *inter-alia* stated that the recommendations of the Committee on Petitions of the Lok Sabha was under their examination. This reply was treated as an assurance and the Ministry requested for dropping the same *inter-alia* on the ground that the matter is sub-judice. The Committee considered this request of the Ministry at their sitting held on 16 May 2007 and after having been satisfied with the submissions made by the Ministry, decided to drop the assurance.

[ii] ANTI-SEA EROSION SCHEMES IN MAHARASHTRA

2.11 On 02 December 2002, Sarvashri Ashok Namdeorao Mohol and Ramsheth Thakur, M.Ps., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.2140 to the Minister of Water Resources:-

> **"(a) whether the State Governments including Maharashtra has submitted any plan to the Central Water Commission (CWC) for financial assistance and clearance to carry out anti-sea erosion works in the States; and**
>
> **(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?"**

2.12 In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Water Resources (Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty) stated as follows:-

> **"(a) & (b) A proposal amounting to Rs.193.80 crore received from the Government of Maharashtra alongwith the proposals received from the States of Karnataka, West Bengal and Union Territory of Pondicherry for construction of anti sea erosion works, which have been included under Phase-I of the National Coastal Protection Project (NCPP), are under examination in Central Water Commission in consultation with Central Water & Power Research Station, Pune. The proposals from other maritime States/U.Ts which includes Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Kerala, Lakshdweep, Orissa and Tamil Nadu, which are proposed to be included in Phase- II of the project, are under different stages of examination in Central Water Commission.**
>
> **The proposals for taking up critical anti sea erosion works for inclusion in the Centrally**

Sponsored Scheme received from the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa and Pondicherry are also under examination in Central Water Commission."

2.13 The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Water Resources within three months of the date of the reply, i.e. by 01 March 2003, but the assurance is yet to be fulfilled.

2.14 The Ministry of Water Resources vide their O.M. No.PLU-10/11/06-PP dated 17 July 2006 requested the Committee to drop the assurance on the grounds that the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Critically anti-erosion works in coastal and other than Ganga basin States" for anti-sea erosion works in critical areas was taken up by the Government of India in March, 2004 on pilot basis with an estimated cost of Rs.20.64 crore. The funding pattern of the scheme is 75:25 (Centre:State). Anti-sea erosion works for specific critical areas in Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry have been included in the scheme. Under the scheme the proposal of Government of Maharashtra was for Rs.3.20 crore. As per the funding pattern, the Central share was Rs.2.40 crore, out of which a sum of Rs.2.30 crore has already been released based on the proposal received from the State Government. With a view to seeking external funding for the National Coastal Protection Project (NCPP), an Approach Paper prepared by the Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) on coastal protection was submitted to the Planning Commission. Planning Commission forwarded the Approach Paper to the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) for consideration and exploring the

possibility of getting external funding. Agreeing with the proposal of MOWR, the DEA had forwarded the Approach Paper to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for consideration. ADB has approved administering technical assistance to the Government of India for "Integrated Coastal Management and Related Investment Development". The comprehensive programme includes activities of Ministry of Environment and Forest and Ministry of Water Resources.

2.15 In view of the above, the Ministry with the approval of Minister of Water Resources requested that as the action on part of MOWR for seeking external funding has culminated in approval of above said technical assistance, the said assurance may be dropped.

2.16 The Ministry of Water Resources had not sought any extension of time to implement the assurance.

2.17 A question was asked on 02 December 2002 regarding submission of a plan by the State Government of Maharashtra, to the Central Water Commission (CWC) for financial assistance and clearance to carry out anti-sea erosion works in the States alongwith the steps taken by the Government. In reply it was, *inter-alia* stated by the Government that the proposals received from the State of Maharashtra and other States were under examination. This reply was treated as an assurance. However, the Ministry requested for its deletion *inter-alia* on the ground that no action on the part of the Ministry is pending in the matter. This request was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 16 May 2007 and agreeing to the reasons forwarded by the Ministry, the Committee decided to drop the assurance. However, the Committee take a serious view on the fact that the Ministry had not bothered to seek extension of time to fulfill the assurance and desire the Ministry to be careful in future and seek extension of time if the assurance is not implemented within three months of the reply.

[iii] PRINTING OF TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES AND TELEPHONE DIRECTORY BY PRIVATE OPERATORS

2.18 On 11 May 2005 Shri Rupchand Murmu, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.6831 to the Minister of Communications and Information Technology:-

> **"(a) whether the Government proposes to enlist the names and addresses of all telecom subscribers including mobile ones in telephone directories;**
>
> **(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be brought out;**
>
> **(c) whether the TRAI has directed all the private operators to bring out their printed telephone directories;**
>
> **(d) if so, the details thereof; and**
>
> **(e) the response of the operators in this regard?"**

2.19 In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Dr. Shakeel Ahmad) stated as follows:-

> **"(a) to (e) TRAI has provided its recommendations to the Government on publication of Telephone Directory and Directory Enquiry Services, on 05.05.2005. The same are under process."**

2.20 On 07 December 2005, Shri P.S. Gadhavi, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.2137 to the Minister of Communications and Information Technology:-

> **"(a) whether Telephone Directory of subscribers of mobile and landline telephone is not being provided by private operators;**

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment of subscribers of private operators in the country with special reference to Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for all private operators to publish Telephone Directory for the benefit of public; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?"

2.21 In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Dr. Shakeel Ahmad) stated as follows:-

"(a) to (f) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has given its recommendations on `Printing of Telephone Directory and Directory Enquiry Services` for basic and mobile telephone services. The same are being examined in the Department of Telecommunications.

The total number of subscribers of private operators in the country in respect of Landline, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) is 6,16,14,368 and specifically in Gujarat is 43,24,676 as on 31-10-2005."

2.22 The replies to the above questions were treated as assurances and were required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology within three months of the date of their replies but the assurances could not be fulfilled within the stipulated time.

2.23 The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology *vide* O.M.No.14-12/2005-PHP dated 31 January and 20 June 2006 requested for dropping the assurances on the grounds that the Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has given recommendations on publication of Telephone Directory & Directory Enquiry Services. The recommendations are being examined. As these are policy issues which require detailed examination, no specific time-frame can be fixed.

2.24 In view of the above, the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of State (C&IT) requested that both the assurances may be deleted. The Ministry also requested that the present time limit for fulfillment of the assurances may be further extended up to 31 December 2006.

2.25 The Committee note that a question was asked on 11 May 2005 regarding Printing of Telephone Directories. The question *inter-alia* sought information regarding proposal of the Government to enlist the names and addressees of all telecom subscribers including mobile ones in telephone directories. Another question regarding Telephone Directory by Private Operators was asked on 07 December 2005. In reply to both the questions it was *inter-alia* stated that Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has given its recommendations on Printing of Telephone Directory and Directory Enquiry Services for basic and mobile telephone service and the same were being examined by the Department of Telecommunications. The replies to the questions were treated as assurances and the Ministry requested for dropping them on the ground that the recommendations of TRAI are under consideration. This request of the Ministry was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 16 May 2007 and after taking note of the submissions made by the Ministry, decided to drop both the assurances.

[iv] PROPOSALS FOR NEW DENTAL COLLEGES

2.26 On 10 August 2005, Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai Barad, MP addressed the following USQ No. 2687 to the Minister of Health and Family Welfare:-

"(a) the number of dental colleges in Government and Private Sectors separately, at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals received by the Union Government from the States for the establishment of new dental colleges during the year 2004-05;

(c) the number of proposals approved by the Union Government during the above period;

(d) the number of proposals pending for approval by the Union Government as on date; and

(e) the time by when these proposals are likely to be cleared by the Union Government?"

2.27 In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Smt. Panabaka Lakshmi) stated as follows:-

"(a) There are 31 Government and 174 private dental colleges in the Country. A state-wise list is at Annexure.

(b) Between 1.10.2003 and 30.9.2004, 42 proposals for establishment of new dental colleges were received from various States.

(c) 4 Proposals for establishment of new dental colleges were approved during 2004-05.

(d) As on date, a total number of 43 Proposals are under consideration.

(e) Grant of permission by Central Government in these cases would depend upon availability of necessary

infrastructural facilities as per the norms of the Dental Council of India(DCI) and the recommendations of the DCI thereon."

Annexure

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Government Dental College	Private Dental College	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	15	17
2	Assam	1	-	1
3	Bihar	1	6	7
4	Chhattisgarh	1	3	4
5	Delhi	1	-	1
6	Goa	1	-	1
7	Gujarat	2	5	7
8	Haryana	1	8	9
9	Himachal Pradesh	1	4	5
10	J & K	1	-	1
11	Karnataka	1	41	42
12	Kerala	3	9	12
13	Madhya Pradesh	1	7	8
14	Maharashtra	4	20	24
15	Orissa	1	1	2
16	Pondicherry	1	-	1
17	Punjab	2	9	11
18	Rajasthan	1	8	9
19	Tamil Nadu	1	15	16
20	Uttar Pradesh	2	21	23
21	Uttaranchal	0	1	1
22	West Bengal	2	1	3
	Total	**31**	**174**	**205**

2.28 The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare within three months of the date of reply i.e. by 09 November 2005 but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

2.29 The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare *vide* their O.M. No.H.11016/15/2005-PMS/DE dated 04 May 2006 with the approval of the Union

Minister of Health and Family Welfare requested for dropping the assurance on the following grounds:-

(i) Of the 43 pending cases referred to in Part (d) of the Reply to the subject Question, 12 cases have been approved by Government of India, thereby reducing the no. of pending applications to 31.

(ii) As per the Dentists Act and the Regulations framed thereunder, the schemes/applications received from the eligible applicants as per the prescribed schedule appended to the Regulations, i.e. Receipt of applications, processing within the Ministry, referring to Dental Council of India (DCI) for verification and recommendations, grant of permission, etc., are considered by the Central Government and appropriate order passed thereon u/s 10A(4) of the Act, i.e. either approving or disapproving the scheme, after giving adequate opportunity of Personal Hearing (PH) to the applicants, where required.

(iii) The above process entails DCI to conduct physical verification of the infrastructure and facilities created by the applicants to ascertain that they fulfill the norms prescribed for establishment of new dental colleges. The deficiencies identified are conveyed by DCI to the applicants for rectification and furnishing of Compliance Report thereof. After giving reasonable opportunity to the applicants for the purpose, DCI send their recommendation to GOI to either approve or disapprove the scheme.

(iv) It is a continuous process and at any given point of time there are applications under consideration of either DCI or the Central Government. The remaining 31 cases referred to in the reply are similarly at various stages of processing and consideration with the Council/Central Government.

2.30 A question was asked on 10 August 2005 regarding Proposal for New Dental Colleges. The question inter-alia sought information regarding the number of Dental Colleges in Government and Private Sectors and the number of proposals received by the Union Government from the States for the establishment of such colleges and the proposals approved/pending and the time by which they would be cleared. In reply it was *inter-alia* stated that 43 proposals were under consideration, which was treated as an assurance. However, the Ministry requested for dropping the assurance on the ground that establishment of Dental Colleges is a continuous process and at any given point of time there are applications under consideration of either Dental Council of India or the Central Government. The Committee, at their sitting held on 16 May 2007 considered this request and having been satisfied with the reasons furnished by the Ministry, decided to drop the assurance.

[v] ASSISTANCE TO STATE GOVERNMENTS FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS

2.31 On 27 February 2006, S/Shri Sanjay Dhotre and G. Karunakara Reddy, M.Ps., addressed the following Starred Question No.122 to the Minister of Water Resources:-

> **"(a) whether the work on many irrigation projects in the States particularly Maharashtra have been held up due to non-release of funds by the Union Government resulting in revision of time schedule and cost overrun in respect of these projects;**
>
> **(b) if so, the details of such projects, State-wise; and**
>
> **(c) the steps taken by the Government to release the funds to enable the State Governments to complete these projects expeditiously?"**

2.32 In reply, the Minister of Water Resources (Prof. Saif-Ud-Din Soz) stated as follows:-

> **"(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House."**

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.122 FOR ANSWER ON 27-02-2006 REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO STATE GOVERNMENTS FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS

(a) **No, Sir. Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments based on their priorities. This situation is also applicable to irrigation projects in the State of Maharashtra.**

(b) **Does not arise.**

(c) **The Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in 1996-97 to provide Central loan assistance for such approved irrigation projects proposed by the States which are in an advanced stage of construction and beyond the resources capability of the States that can be completed in four financial years. Since 2004-05, grant component has been introduced under the Programme and from 2005-06, the grant portion of the central loan assistance only is provided by the Centre and the loan portion has to be raised by the State Governments by market borrowing. The release of Central assistance under AIBP is in the form of supplementation of the resources of the State Governments within the overall State Plan allocation and it is provided subject to the ceiling fixed by the Planning Commission. The time and cost overruns in the irrigation projects cannot be attributed to release of Central assistance under AIBP by the Central Government.**

2.33 During discussion on Starred Question No.122 Shri Basudeb Acharia, M.P., asked the following Supplementary Question:-

> **"There is one important project in North Bengl, Tiesta Irrigation Project. So far, the Central Government has not provided sufficient funds for that project. If that project is completed, life of the entire North Bengal will change. That is very necessary for four districts of North Bengal. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Central Government will provide sufficient funds to complete Tiesta Irrigation Project expeditiously."**

2.34 In reply, the Minister of Water Resources (Prof. Saif-Ud-Din Soz) *inter-alia* stated as follows:-

> **"The Planning Commission is considering about the Tiesta Project."**

2.35 The reply to the above question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Water Resources within three months of the date of the reply *i.e.* by 26 May 2006. However the assurance has not been implemented so far.

2.36 The Ministry of Water Resources vide O.M.No.24/07/2006 dated May 2006 requested for dropping the assurance on the ground that the proposal of the Ministry of Water Resources for Central funding of some mega irrigation projects to enable their quick completion for early creation of irrigation potential was presented in a meeting taken by the Prime Minister to review some selected Action

Points that emerged from the Mid Term Review of the Tenth Five Year Plan. Central funding would imply increase in grant element from about 23% in Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to 50% to 67.5%. The Teesta Barrage Project of West Bengal is one such project under consideration as National Projects. The Planning Commission has supported the concept of National Projects in the context of Bharat Nirman but not in favour of including intra State Projects.

2.37 The Ministry further stated that the matters regarding Central Assistance and declaring the Teesta Project as National Project were discussed in the meeting taken by the then Hon'ble Minister of State for Water Resources with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal at Kolkatta on 08 January 2006. The Hon'ble Chief Minister was then apprised that Teesta Barrage Project was included under AIBP in 1996-1997 and an amount of Rs.135.244 crore was released as Central assistance/grant upto March 2005. The proposal for central assistance for the year 2005-2006 was delayed as the State Government was to clear the backlog expenditure on the project. As the State could not clear the backlog expenditure, no Central assistance was provided during 2005-2006. On examination of the above assurance, it is seen that fulfillment of the assurance will depend upon the finalization of the proposal by the Central Government on the National Projects which is under consideration. The Ministry have informed that as a clear and definite time frame cannot be fixed on this matter, it may not be possible to indicate the exact date for fulfilling the assurance.

2.38 In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Water Resources, requested that the above mentioned assurance may be deleted from the list of assurances.

2.39 The Committee note that a Starred Question regarding assistance to State Governments for Irrigation Projects was asked on 27 February 2006. In reply it was *inter-alia* stated that irrigation is a State subject. However, Shri Basudeb Acharia, M.P. during supplementary on the question, desired to know whether the Central Government would provide sufficient funds to complete Tiesta Irrigation Project expeditiously. In reply, it was stated that the Planning Commission was considering about the Tiesta Project. This reply was treated as an assurance. However, the Ministry requested for dropping of the assurance on the ground that no Central assistance was provided during the year 2005-2006 as the State could not clear the backlog expenditure on the said project. The Committee considered this request of the Ministry at their sitting held on 16 May 2007 and after taking note of the submissions made by the Ministry of Water Resources, decided to drop the assurance.

[vi] THIRD PHASE FOR EXPANSION OF FM RADIO

2.40 On 09 March 2006, S/Shri Sugrib Singh and Kishan Bhai V. Patel, MPs addressed the following USQ No. 2009 to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting:-

> **"(a) whether the Government is contemplating the third phase for expansion of FM Radio in small cities in the country;**
>
> **(b) if so, the details in this regard;**
>
> **(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a regulator in the broadcasting sector;**
>
> **(d) if so, the details thereof; and**
>
> **(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far?"**

2.41 In reply, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs (Shri P.R. Dasmunsi) stated as follows:-

> **"(a) to (b) Policy for Phase III of FM Radio has not been formulated as yet.**
>
> **(c) to (e) The Government has decided to set up a Broadcasting Regulatory Authority to regulate broadcasting services in India. A draft Bill is under preparation."**

2.42 The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting within three months of the date of reply i.e. by 08 June 2006 but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

2.43 The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vide their O.M. No.501.8/2006-FM dated 05 September 2006 sought extension of time to fulfill the assurance by 09.12.2006. Subsequently, the Ministry *vide* their O.M. No.501/8/2006-FM/510 dated 01 November 2006 requested for dropping the assurance on the ground that as regards Phase III of FM Radio is concerned, it is informed that Phase II Policy announced in July 2005, is presently under implementation and will still take about a year when all the allocated channels become operational. Thereafter, it will take some time to analyse the merits and demerits of the Policy after watching performance of operational channels for some period, say one or two years. It is only after that the Government would be in a position to come up with the Policy for the third Phase. Therefore, at this stage, it is not possible to intimate whether and when there would be a third phase of expansion of FM Radio through private agencies. Thus, it is highly uncertain at this point of time to say whether assurance given can be fulfiled in the near future.

2.44 In view of above, the Ministry with the approval of Secretary, I&B requested that the matter may be placed before the Committee on Government Assurances for dropping the assurance.

2.45 The Committee note that a question was asked on 09 March 2006 regarding Third Phase for Expansion of FM Radio. The question *inter-alia* sought information about Third Phase for Expansion of FM Radio in small cities in the country. In reply it was stated that the Policy for Phase III of FM Radio has not been formulated at yet and the Government had decided to set up a Broadcasting Regulatory Authority to regulate broadcasting services in India and a draft Bill is under preparation. This reply was treated as an assurance. However, a request was made by the Ministry for dropping the assurance on the ground that Phase II Policy announced in July 2005 was being implemented and will take about a year when all the allocated channels become operational. It is only after that the Government would be in a position to come up with the Policy for the Third Phase. The Committee considered this request at their sitting held on 16 May 2007 and having been convinced by the reasons forwarded by the Ministry decided to drop the same.

[vii] REGIONAL PACKAGING CENTRES

2.46 On 03 August 2006, Shri C.K. Chandrappan, MP addressed the following USQ No. 1357 to the Minister of Food Processing Industries:-

> **"(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala seeking financial assistance for setting up Regional Packaging Centres at Ernakulam, Pathanamthitta and Malapuram;**
>
> **(b) if so, the details thereof; and**
>
> **(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?"**

2.47 In reply, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (Shri Subodh Kant Sahai) stated as follows:-

> **"(a) to (c): A proposal has been received from Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Government of Kerala for financial assistance for setting up of Regional Food Processing cum Packing Centres at Ernakulam, Pathanamthitta and Malappuram in Kerala. The proposal has been scrutinized and required clarifications /supporting information have been called for."**

2.48 The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries within three months of the date of reply i.e. by 02 November 2006 but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

2.49 The Ministry of Food Processing Industries *vide* their O.M. No. 4-65/2006-F&VP/NE dated 26 October 2006 requested for dropping the assurance on the ground that the project proposals under the Ministry's Plan Schemes are

considered on receipt of complete and viable project proposals alongwith the recommendation of State Nodal Agency (SNA), appraisal report of Bank/Financial Institution, fully tied up means of finance, etc. The proposals received from Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Govt. Of Kerala for financial assistance for setting up of Regional Food Processing cum Packing Centres at Ernakulam, Pathanamthitta and Malappuram in Kerala was received without basic documentation like recommendation of SNA, Bank appraisal, tied up means of finance etc. and as such did not fulfil the criteria for consideration for assistance. Accordingly, the organization was asked to furnish the required documentation/clarifications so as to enable the Ministry to process the proposal. On non-receipt of the requisite information, the applicant organization was again asked to furnish a complete proposal/necessary documentation/clarification. The Ministry have stated that they can process the proposal only on receipt of complete information.

2.50 In view of the above position, the Ministry with the approval of Hon'ble MOS (I/C) requested that the assurance may be dropped.

2.51 The Committee note that a question was asked on 03 August 2006 regarding regional packaging centers. The question sought information regarding receipt of proposal from the Government of Kerala seeking financial assistance for setting up of Regional Packaging Centres in the State. In reply it was inter-alia stated that the said proposal was received and necessary clarifications/supporting information had been called for. This reply was treated as an assurance and the Ministry requested for its dropping on the ground that the proposals received from Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Department of Kerala Government could not be considered due to non-receipt of necessary clarifications/supporting information from the State Government. According to them, they can process the proposal only on receipt of complete information. The Committee considered this request at their sitting held on 16 May 2007 and having been convinced by the reasons forwarded by the Ministry decided to drop the same.

NEW DELHI;

HARIN PATHAK
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

25 July 2007
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03 Sravana 1929 (Saka)

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1090
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2002

PENSION SCHEME FOR WORKERS OF UNORGANISED SECTOR

1090. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK
SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK
CHANDRA NATH SINGH
BRIJLAL KHABRI
RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Pension Scheme for ensuring social security of labourers in unorganised sector as reported in Rashtriya Sahara dated October 27, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the details of new labour welfare schemes evolved by the Government for the Tenth Five Year Plan?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN)

(a) to (c): The Government has launched `Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001` in 50 identified districts to cover 10 lakh agricultural workers during the first phase of three years. The scheme envisages to provide life-cum-accident insurance, money back, pension and superannuation benefits. The Old Age Social and Income Security (OASIS) Report has recommended a new pension system for the unorganised sector. A Group of Ministers has been formed to consider the recommendations of OASIS Report and further action would be initiated on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers.

(d):The Tenth Plan document is under finalisation.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1113
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2003

WELFARE OF WORKERS IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

1113. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government propose to institute a board for the welfare of workers in the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, whether according to the proposed Unorganised Sector Worker`s Act, 2003, the Central Unorganised Sector Workers` Welfare Board will comprise representatives for Non-Governmental Organisations;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any draft legislation in this regard is likely to be considered; and

(e) if so, by when it is likely to be introduced?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR)

(a) to (e): A proposal to enact a legislation for Unorganised Sector Workers is under consideration of the Government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2000
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2003

LABOURERS IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

2000. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:-

(a) the percentage of labourers working in unorganised sector in each State of the country;

(b) the details of the recommendations made by International Labour Commission with regard to the employment in unorganised sector in India;

(c) whether the Government propose to improve the economy of the country by giving recognitions to labourers and putting them under organised sector; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR)

(a) to (d): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1031
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2003

UNORGANISED LABOURERS UNDER PENSION SCHEME

1031. SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA
PRABHA RAU

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government propose to cover almost one crore labourers of the unorganised sector throughout the country under the pension scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the basic objectives of this scheme; and

(c) the contribution to be made by the Union Government, State Governments and private employers in this scheme?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA)

(a) to (c): A proposal to enact comprehensive legislation for unorganised sector workers and formulation of certain social security schemes which, *inter-alia* includes pension scheme for these workers is under active consideration of the Government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO 181
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2003

SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME FOR UNORGANISED SECTOR

181. COL.(RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:-

(a) the detailed observations made and clarifications sought by the Group of Ministers on the social security scheme for the unorganised sector;

(b) whether the Ministry of labour has been asked to fine tune the scheme;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) by when the said scheme is to be recast and implemented?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA)

(a) to (d): The Government propose to introduce a comprehensive Bill for the unorganised sector workers in the Parliament. The Group of Ministers has cleared the proposal. The Bill, amongst other provisions, also envisages to provide for certain social security schemes like old age pension, accident and health insurance. The proposal is under active consideration of the Government.

STARRED QUESTION NO.181 DATED 15.12.2003 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION ASKED BY SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI, M.P.

SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME FOR UNORGANISED SECTOR

Hon'ble Member asked –

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether the pilots, who are getting Rs.2 to 5 lakh per month as salary, are also covered under the definition of labour? What the Government are doing for them?

Hon'ble Minister stated-

"Since the Minister of Civil Aviation is also interested in this, we are considering over this".

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO 241
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2005

SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME FOR CONTRACT AND INDUSTRIAL LABOURERS

241. SMT. ANURADHA CHOUDHARY
MOHAMMAD TAHIR KHAN

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government is likely to announce a social security scheme for all the workers including contract and industrial labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the wages of the daily workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to amend the Labour Laws; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.
Statement referred to in part (a) to (f) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 241 for 21.03.2005 regarding Social Security Scheme for Contract and Industrial Labourers.

(a)&(b): Yes Sir. The Employees` Provident Fund Organisation under the Employees` Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 has been operating following three Schemes for the workers in the organized sector including workers engaged on contract basis and industrial labourers:

(i) The Employees` Provident Fund Scheme 1952

(ii) Employees` Pension Scheme, 1995 and

(iii) Employees` Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976

Similarly, the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has been implementing schemes for sickness & disability benefits for its members and medical & maternity care for them & their families. Recently, the ESIC announced `Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojna` to provide unemployment benefit to the workers who lose their jobs involuntarily. ESIC is also contemplating extension of coverage to workers in all municipal areas in the country. The Government have also been implementing Social Security Schemes including financial assistance for construction of houses, scholarships to school/college going children, group insurance and medical healthcare to the workers and their families engaged in beedi rolling, certain non-coal mine workers and cine workers under their respective welfare funds. The Government have recently enhanced the rate of cess on manufactured beedis from Rs. 2/- to Rs. 4/- per one thousand beedis to augment the fund position.

The Government have also appointed the National Commission on Enterprises in the informal/ unorganized sector under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arjun Sengupta to look into the problems of unorganized sector including social security. The Government have been further contemplating to bring out a legislation which inter alia, would provide social security to the unorganized sector workers. Consultations are being held with State Governments, central trade unions and other stakeholders on the draft of such a legislation the `Unorganized Sector Workers Bill, 2004`.

(c) & (d): Minimum wages fixed by the appropriate Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in respect of scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction are also applicable to those engaged on daily basis. The Act provides for revision of the minimum wages at an interval not exceeding five years. Wherever minimum wages have a Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) component, the VDA is revised periodically twice a year.

(e) & (f): Review / updation of labour laws is an ongoing process. Changes in the Labour laws are effected after detailed consultations with the social partners with a view to harmonise the interests of all stakeholders. Action has been initiated to amend certain Acts like the Payment of Wages Act, 1936; which seeks to ensure payment of wages in time and does not allow any unauthorized deductions. Presently, it covers those employees who draw wages upto Rs.1600/- per month. It is proposed to increase this ceiling to Rs.6500/- per month to enlarge the coverage of workers. The amendment Bill has been passed by the Rajya Sabha on 02.12.2004. It would be taken up in the Lok Sabha in due course.

STARRED QUESTION NO.241 DATED 21 MARCH 2005 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION RAISED BY SMT. ANURADHA CHOUDHARY, M.P.

SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME FOR CONTRACT AND INDUSTRIAL LABOURERS

Hon'ble Member asked-

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to constitute a commission for the unorganized sector and whether the Government have prepared a pilot project for social security scheme for unorganized labourers in the districts of various states during the last few years. If so, what is the present status of that project?

Hon'ble Minister stated –

"Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government have recently appointed the National Commission on Enterprises under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arjun Sengputa to look into the unorganized sector workers. The matter is under examination. A Bill is also under consideration. The consultation to look into matters of unorganized sector workers is on. Very shortly, the Government will come before the House in the form of a Bill.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4507
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.04.2005

AMENDMENT OF MATERNITY ACT, 1961

4507. SHRI MAHA DEO RAO SHIWANKAR
NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHWAHA
RAVI PRAKASH VERMA
MOHAMMED SHAHID
ANURADHA CHOUDHARY
MUNSHIRAM
BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to extend maternity benefits to the women workers in unorganized sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to accord priority in implementing the recommendations made by the Planning Commission in this regard;

(d) if so, the amount of assistance proposed to be given particularly to each pregnant woman working in unorganised sector;

(e) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to amend the Maternity Act, 1961;

(f) if so, the details of the proposed amendment;

(g) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(h) whether the Government has made State-wise assessment of funds to be spent under the said scheme; and

(i) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a) to (d): The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 applies in the first instance to mines, factories, circus industry, plantations and shops or establishments employing 10 or more persons including any such establishment belonging to Government except those employees who are covered under the ESI Act, 1948. The maternity benefits are available to the women workers engaged in occupations of beedi, certain non-coal mines and cine industry under the Welfare Funds being implemented by the Ministry of Labour & Employment. The Government is also contemplating the enactment of the Unorganised Sector Workers Bill,2004. The draft bill, *inter-alia*, envisages maternity benefit to the women workers in the unorganised sector.

(e) to (i): A proposal to raise the medical bonus payable under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 from Rs.250/- to Rs.1000/- and to give power to Central Government to revise medical bonus from time to time is under consideration of the Government. The payment of medical bonus under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 is employers liability so State wise assesment of funds can not be worked out.

CALLING ATTENTION DATED 13.05.2005 BY SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA, M.P. REGARDING ALLEGED VIOLATION OF PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT AND PAYMENT OF MINIMUM WAGES ACT AND NEED TO ENACT A COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION FOR UORGANISED LABOUR

The Hon'ble Member *inter-alia* asked as under:-

"How long will the Government take to bring the Bill to Parliament and whether the Bill will provide for Central funding and elaborate monitoring system?

My second question is, why has the Ministry of Labour not brought an amendment to the Payment of Wages Bill passed in the other House more than a year back? The amendment to the Payment of Wages Bill may give relief to the workers. Why is the Government vacillating to take a decision on that?

Thirdly, what is the Government intending to do with those who violate the labour laws in this country?

Lastly, will the Government assure us that normal trade union movement including right to strike, which has become an international right of workers, will be protected under him as it is under the Ministry of Labour? Will the Minister assure that trade unionism will be protected, unions will be allowed to be registered and their right to have a movement, as guaranteed by the Constitution, will not be interfered with?"

The Hon'ble Minister *inter-alia* stated:-

"I understand their concern. I agree that there is a need to take care of the welfare of the unorganised workforce in this country which has been pending for decades together. I shall definitely try to expedite the matter and come before you as soon as possible".

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 49
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2005

COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION

49. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:-

(a) whether unorganised sector workers who made up 92 per cent of the work force in India have demanded a more comprehensive social security legislation; and

(b) if so, the main demand made by them and the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a) & (b): The demand for a comprehensive legislation for the workers in the unorganised sector has been received from various quarters i.e. central trade unions, Parliamentary Committee attached to the Ministry of Labour, etc. The Second National Commission for Labour also recommended a comprehensive central legislation for these workers. The Government has drafted the `Unorganised Sector Workers Bill, 2004` which is at the stage of consideration in consultation with the stakeholders i.e. State Governments, Central Trade Unions, Employers` Organisations, NGOs, etc. The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector is also looking into the matter.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO 269
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2005

PENSION AND INSURANCE FOR UNORGANISED SECTOR

269. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce pension and insurance benefits scheme for the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the sectors that would be covered by this scheme;

(c) whether the self-employed persons would also be covered by this programme; and

(d) the number of women workers likely to be covered their under this programme?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a) to (d): The Government is contemplating to enact a comprehensive legislation to protect the interests and to provide for social security to the workers in the unorganised sector.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 222
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.02.2006

CONTRACT LABOURERS UNDER MEDICAL INSURANCE SCHEME

222. DR. M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:-

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring the contract labourers under the Medical Insurance Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) & (b): A proposal to formulate an insurance scheme providing for life-cum-accident cover, health insurance etc. to the unorganized sector workers, which may include contract labour, is under consideration of the Govt.

APPENDIX-I

MINUTES

SIXTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2006-2007) held on 16 May 2007 in Committee Room 'E', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1630 hours on Wednesday, 16 May 2007.

PRESENT

CHAIRMAN

Shri Harin Pathak

Members

2. Shri Yogi Aditya Nath
3. Shri Biren Singh Engti
4. Shri Sunil Khan
5. Shri A. Venkatesh Naik
6. Shri Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh
7. Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli

Secretariat

1.	Shri T.K. Mukherjee	-	Director
2.	Shri B.S. Dahiya	-	Deputy Secretary
3.	Shri V.P. Goel	-	Deputy Secretary-II

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and apprised them briefly about the agenda for the sitting. Thereafter, the Committee considered the draft Report regarding requests for dropping of assurances and after some

discussion adopted the same without any amendment. The Committee authorised the Hon'ble Chairman to finalise the Report and present the same to the House during the current Budget Session.

The Committee, then took up the following Memoranda on the requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping the assurances:-

Memorandum No.52 Request for dropping the 13 assurances given in reply to various SQs/USQs tabled from 25 November, 2002 to 20 February, 2006 regarding 'Central Legislation for Unorganised Sector Workers'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that 13 assurances were given in reply to various Starred/Unstarred Questions tabled during the period November 2002 to February 2006 regarding central legislation for unorganized sector workers. The Committee observed that in the reply to the questions it was stated that the matter is under active consideration of the Government. The Committee were of the view that these pending assurances relate to millions of poor people of the country and the Government should not be allowed to escape its liability. The Committee, therefore, desired that the assurances be fulfilled by the Government and decided not to drop these assurances.

Memorandum No.53 Request for dropping the assurance given in reply to USQ No. 4194 dated 19 April 2002 regarding 'Discriminatory Treatment by MMTC.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that a number of writ petitions have been filed by employees of Mica Division for seeking

wage parity with the regular employees of MMTC Ltd. As the matter is sub-judice, the Committee decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No.54 **Request for dropping the assurance given in reply to USQ No. 2140 dated 02 December 2002 regarding 'Anti-Sea Erosion Schemes in Maharashtra'.**

The Committee considered the above memorandum and having been satisfied by the reasons advanced by the Ministry, decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No.55 **Request for dropping the assurances given on (i) 11 May, 2005 in reply to USQ No. 6831 regarding Printing of Telephone Directories; and (ii) 07 December, 2005 in reply to USQ No. 2137 regarding 'Telephone Directory by Private Operators'.**

The Committee considered the above memorandum and after taking note of the submissions made by the Ministry, decided to drop both the assurances.

Memorandum No.56 **Request for dropping the assurance given in reply to USQ No. 2687 dated 10 August, 2005 regarding 'Proposals for New Dental Colleges'.**

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that out of the 43 proposals for establishment of new dental colleges, 12 had been approved and the remaining 31 cases are at various stages of processing and consideration by the Dental Council of India/Central Government. The Committee also noted that before granting permission for the establishment of a dental college, a long drawn procedure is involved, therefore, the Committee decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No.57 **Request for dropping the assurance given in reply to SQ No. 122 dated 27 February 2006 regarding 'assistance to State Governments for Irrigation Projects'.**

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that Irrigation is a state subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of State Governments and the finalization of the proposal by the Central Government depend upon the clearance of backlog expenditure on the project by the State Government and in the present case West Bengal Government are not coming forward to furnish the requisite details of expenditure on the Tista River Project. In view of the cogent reasons advanced to the Committee, they decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No.58 **Request for dropping the assurance given in reply to USQ No. 2009 dated 09 March 2006 regarding 'Third Phase for Expansion of FM Radio'.**

The Committee considered the above memorandum and after taking note of the submissions made by the Ministry, decided to drop the assurance.

MemorandumNo.59&60 **Request for dropping the assurances given in replies to (i) SQ No. 306 dated 13 March, 2006 regarding 'Development of Agro Processing Industries'; and (ii) USQ No. 1316 dated 03 August, 2006 regarding 'Food Parks and Modernisation of Abattoir Schemes.**

The Committee took up the above two memoranda together and noted that the proposals for Integrated Food Zones/Mega Food Parks and modernization of

Abattoir are under discussion with the Planning Commission and the proposal if any, would be considered only to be as a part of the 11th Plan. The Committee, therefore, not agreeing to the request of the Ministry, desired to be apprised of the present position of these assurances and decided not to drop them.

Memorandum No.61 Request for dropping the assurance given in reply to USQ No. 1357 dated 03 August, 2006 regarding 'Regional Packaging Centres'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the proposals received from Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department of Kerala Government could not be considered by the Ministry of Food Processing for extending financial assistance as the proposals were without the basic documentation viz., recommendation of SNA, Bank appraisal, tied up means of finance etc. The concerned organization has yet to furnish the required documentation/clarifications to enable the Ministry to process it further. The Committee having been satisfied with the reasons advanced by the Ministry, decided to drop the assurance.

2. Thereafter, the Committee discussed about the study visit of the Committee. The Committee decided that the study visits may be undertaken in two phases. In the first Phase the Committee decided to visit Chennai, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Kolkota w.e.f. 8th June to 12th June, 2007. In respect of places to be visited during the second phase, the Committee decided to finalise the same later on.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX-II

MINUTES

NINTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2006-2007) held on 25 July 2007 in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1130 hours to 1230 hours on Wednesday, 25 July, 2007.

PRESENT

CHAIRMAN

Shri Harin Pathak

Members

2. Shri J.M. Aaroon Rashid
3. Shri Jigajinagi Ramesh Chandappa
4. Shri Biren Singh Engti
5. Shri Sunil Khan
6. Shri Vijoy Krishna
7. Shri Rasheed Masood
8. Smt. M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran

Secretariat

1.	Shri Hardev Singh	-	Director
2.	Shri B.S. Dahiya	-	Deputy Secretary
3.	Shri V.P. Goel	-	Deputy Secretary-II

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them briefly about the agenda for the sitting. The Committee, thereafter, considered the draft Nineteenth report regarding requests for dropping of assurances and after discussion adopted the same without any amendments. The Committee authorized the Chairman to finalise the report and present the same to the House in the coming session. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following ten Memoranda containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping the assurances:-

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The Committee then adjourned.